

**Home Education Advisory Council
Minutes—March 13, 2012**

Chairman Abbey Lawrence called the regular meeting of the Home Education Advisory Council to order at 3:45 p.m. in room 15 of Londergan Hall in Concord, New Hampshire.

Members Present: Marc Boyd, Barrett Christina, George D’Orazio, Chris Hamilton, Abbey Lawrence, Representative Joseph Pitre, Roberta Tenney, Heath Wheeler, and Dennis Wyman.

Visitors: Jane Grady, Kim Monterio

Minutes: The Council approved the February 14, 2012 minutes by general consent.

Chairman’s Report:

The terms of the following non-legislative council members expire in 2012: Marc Boyd, George D’Orazio, Chris Hamilton, and Keith Pfeifer. Abbey notified the Council of existing or imminent vacancies on the 8-member New Hampshire State Board of Education: John Lyons, Fred J. Bramante, Daphne Kenyon, and William D. Walker.

Abbey distributed copies of statistics for the annual Council report to the State Board (available from the DOE website at: http://www.education.nh.gov/data/documents/home_school11_12.pdf and http://www.education.nh.gov/data/documents/home_school_ten10_11.pdf).

Abbey informed the Council of a conversation she had about a student who attends public school part time and VLACS part time. Because the student attends neither school full time, the school district informed the student’s mother that the district considers him a homeschooler. Previously, the student had access to public school computers and printers to print VLACS materials. The district superintendent told the parent that he was withdrawing access to those resources because the student is a homeschooler. Roberta also spoke with this student’s parent and recommended she contact Deputy Commissioner Paul Leather.

Mark Pageau at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon contacted the New Hampshire Homeschooling Coalition about homeschooler diplomas. An applicant who had previously worked at Dartmouth-Hitchcock was homeschooled, graduated in 2005, and was re-applying for employment as a licensed nursing assistant. Dartmouth-Hitchcock’s accrediting agency requires that applicants have either a high school diploma or a GED.

Department Report: Roberta reported that she has received some calls asking about getting started in homeschooling.

Legislative Report: Chris distributed a written legislative report. The council briefly discussed several of the bills. Chris also distributed copies of a 1974 New Hampshire Supreme Court Case, In re Davis 114 N.H. 242.

Unfinished Business:

School Approval FAQs (http://www.education.nh.gov/program/school_approval/approval_faq.htm#accreditation): The page at this DOE website link refers to “approved home school” programs. At the February Council meeting Chris pointed out that New Hampshire homeschooling programs are *acknowledged*, not approved. She suggested that the department correct the wording to a “home education program as defined in RSA 193-A.” The website still has not been corrected. Roberta said she will discuss the matter with the Bureau of School Approval.

New Business:

Ed 315 Chris suggested that, if HB 1360 passes, the Council hold a public hearing regarding the administrative rule changes .

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Grady
(substituting for Dennis Wyman)

Correction: The spelling of Heather Wheeler's name was made at the April 2012 meeting.